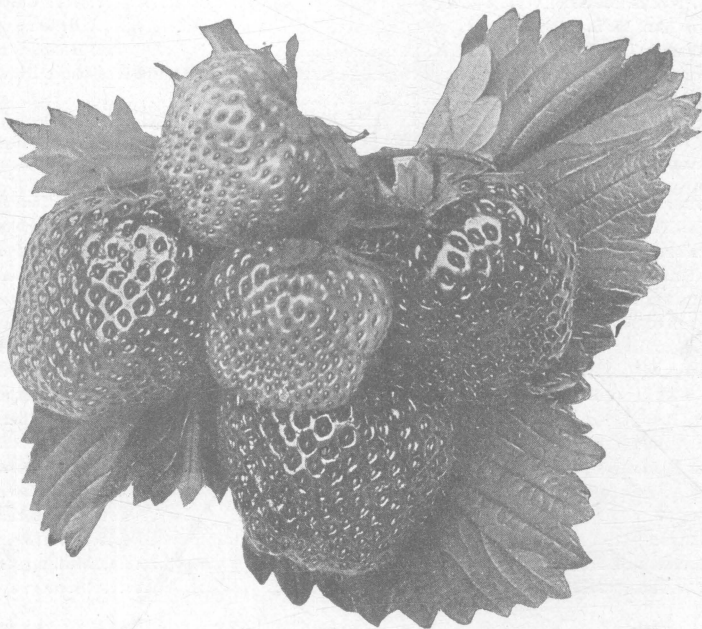


STRAWBERRIES: THE NEWER VARIETIES.

OHIO  
Agricultural Experiment  
Station.

WOOSTER, OHIO, U. S. A. AUGUST, 1907.

BULLETIN 186.



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*EXPERIMENT STATION, Wooster, Ohio.*

# ORGANIZATION OF THE OHIO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

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The Bulletins of this Station are issued at irregular intervals. They are paged consecutively and an index is included with the Annual Report which constitutes the final number of each yearly volume.

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station

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NUMBER 186.

AUGUST, 1907.

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### STRAWBERRIES: THE NEWER VARIETIES.

BY F. H. BALLOU.

#### PRELIMINARY.

In Bulletin 178, which was the report on varieties of strawberries fruited at the Experiment Station in the season of 1906, was briefly discussed, in a general way, the subject of variety testing. Many new varieties were described and illustrated and their behavior at Wooster recorded as nearly as could be done with pen and camera. All of the newer varieties, fruiting at the Station for the first time in 1906, were retained for subsequent trial in 1907, together with several standard sorts which are continued from year to year for comparison. In addition to these were added twenty-seven still more recently originated or introduced varieties.

\* \* \*

One of the most gratifying features of the strawberry experience of 1907 is the fact, that the statements in Bulletin 178, concerning the newer sorts fruited in 1906, scarcely need revision in the way of addition, retraction or modification. Those varieties which did well or were of exceptional promise last year, barring the first early sorts which were, this season, almost wholly cut off by the frosts and freezes occurring throughout the month of May, maintained their good report. On the other hand, those which were partial or nearly total failures in 1906 almost without an exception

failed again this year. Therefore, the report of last year (Bulletin 178) possesses equally as much value at present as it did when presented, in manuscript form, to our printing department one year ago. However, for the convenience of those who have not received Bulletin 178, as well as for convenient reference of those who have it on file, brief mention of the more prominent new strawberries tested in 1906 are embodied in this report.

Bulletins 178, 166 and 154 which are, respectively, reports for 1906, 1905 and 1904, are still available to those who wish to study introductions of recent years.

\* \* \*

Because of a lack of uniformity in the stand of plants, owing to the unsuspected presence of larvæ of the June beetle (white grub worm) in the soil; and also because of the general failure of first early varieties and the more or less severe injury done to the especially tender flowered sorts by frosts and freezing weather, it would be unfair to give comparative yield records in this report. Indeed the unusually cold, late spring with its long series of periods of destructive low temperature which blighted all opening flowers as fast as they appeared, rendered in vain the attempt to follow former methods employed in the accumulation of data relating to dates of first blossoms, first ripe fruits, yields, etc.

Varieties not especially tender in buds and flowers, and all of the later blooming sorts which escaped entirely the effects of the cold, did remarkably well. Indeed the late varieties have not made so satisfactory a showing, since the writer has been at the Station, as they did this season. A comparison of yield, between these and the more unfortunate mid-season and early varieties, would be quite unfair from every point of view; hence this interesting feature of former reports is necessarily absent this year.

\* \* \*

The newer varieties, fruiting for the first time this season, did not impress the writer as having among their number many which will ever become "standard" of their kind. A few are very satisfactory, but not superior in sufficient degree to displace others which by real and persistent merit, have won statements of commendation from careful and conservative specialists and experimenters in the past. As a whole, the new sorts fruiting at the Station for the first time in 1907 are inferior to those which were given their initial trial in 1906. This fact will become apparent, no doubt, in the summary of the season's strawberry work which is given elsewhere in this report.

It is to be regretted that reports upon new varieties of fruits, vegetables, etc., seem to suggest, to so many interested supporters and followers of the Station's experimental and investigational work, that favorable comment upon a promising variety is equivalent to a recommendation for growers to secure plants, vines or trees of these new things immediately. Our annual tests and comparisons are certainly not for this purpose. Many new varieties sent to or secured by the Station for trial, will not, as a matter of fact, be offered to the public for some time, at any price; and the usual inquiry as to what person or firm shall prove to be the introducer, is one that is not always possible or even desirable to answer, as it is not the purpose of the Station to become, in any measure, an advertising medium for those persons or firms which make a specialty of introducing new varieties.

The Station's reports on new varieties are for the purpose of preparing and instructing soil culturists of Ohio sufficiently in advance that they may choose wisely and safely from among the many new varieties from time to time being offered by advertising seed and plant growers, who will by no means fail to let the fact be known by generous and conspicuous advertising in our leading agricultural and horticultural papers and magazines, when the new things are ready for distribution. The exercise of reasonable patience in waiting for new varieties of fruit, etc., to be offered through the usual channels of trade, would save the horticultural department of the Station a burden of work and annoyance, and our correspondents much of the disappointment brought about by premature anxiety to possess that which is dangerously new in the horticultural world, and rarely indeed equal to the few standard, tried and true sorts which are being grown with success and profit in nearly every home and commercial plantation. There are few really reliable firms which do a general mail-order business, which do not advertise in our leading farm journals; and a postal card request is all that is necessary to bring an attractively printed catalogue from each firm. It is in the endeavor to assist those who make themselves possessors of such catalogues, to make intelligent, safe and suitable selections of fruits and vegetables that the Station is justified in making annual investigations of the new things as they become available for the test plot.

NOTES ON THE NEWER VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES FRUITED  
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE SEASON OF 1907.

Photographs by the author.

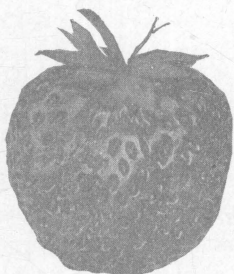


Fig. 1—Almo.

**Almo**—(Slaymaker, 1906)—Imperfect blossoms. Medium size, short, conical, dark crimson, glossy. Flesh red, firm and of good flavor. A healthy grower and good plant maker. Suffered much from the cold hence bore a short crop.

**Beavers** (Crawford, 1906)—Perfect blossoms. A total failure. Plants extremely weak and poor; no fruit worth mentioning.

**Big Ben** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Fruit medium to small in size as produced at the Station; conical, slightly necked, dark crimson in color. Flesh red, only moderately firm, with fairly good flavor.

Suffered much from frosts and produced but few very ordinary berries side by side with other varieties which gave good yields of fine fruit. From its behavior here its name is a misnomer.

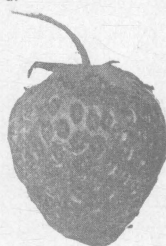
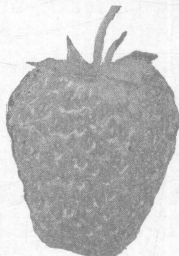


Fig. 2—Big Ben.

**Boston Prize** (Allen, 1906)—Imperfect. Berries

medium to large in size; conical, sometimes long, tapering, wedge shape or divided; color rather light crimson. Flesh pink, moderately firm and fairly good in quality.



Flowers appeared rather late and escaped many hard frosts. Of only moderate prolificacy. Plants strong, vigorous growers, with broad, glossy foliage.

**Bountiful** (Kuhns, 1906)—Perfect. Medium to large, conical, often somewhat flattened; bright crimson in color. Flesh red, moderately firm and of good flavor.

Plants were all that could be desired in growth and vigor; but the flowers suffered most severely from cold. Crop was very light.

**Buster** (Allen, 1906)—Imperfect. Berries medium to large in size; short conical, blunt at apex, occasionally oblate, some specimens slightly furrowed; bright, fresh crimson in color. Flesh pink or light red, sufficiently firm to carry well and of fair quality.

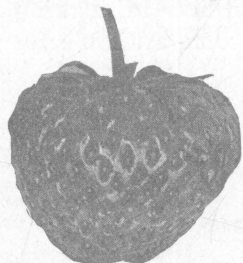


Fig. 5—Buster.



Fig. 4—Bountiful.

This variety has a beautiful, strong healthy

plant that is very prolific. A peculiar characteristic which was apparent this season was the tenacity with which the calyx or "shuck" clung to the stem. Unless the stem were broken the berry would almost always part from the calyx. The pickers reported it "hard to pick" which, however, was no objection when the proper way of gathering the berries by "nipping" the stems was observed. This is a Canadian berry and made a favorable impression this season.

**Chesapeake** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Large, conical, sometimes with blunt apex or slightly furrowed, but usually smooth and regular; color rich, dark crimson, glossy. Flesh pink or red, very firm and of good quality.

Plants are very strong in habits of growth, and moderately prolific for so large a berry, judging from one season's yield. Flowers were sufficiently late to escape the late frosts of May. Promising.

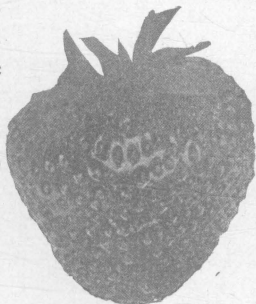


Fig. 6—Chesapeake.

**Cobden Queen** (Allen, 1906)

—Imperfect. Medium in size short conical, often blunt and dimpled at apex; color rich crimson. Flesh firm, red and fair in quality. Plants strong in growth and moderately prolific.

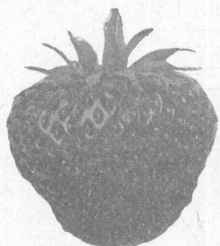


Fig. 7—Cobden Queen.

**Crozier** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Medium to large, often long conical but usually flattened, wedge-shape and divided; color dark crimson when fully mature, somewhat glossy; until fully ripened

inclined to show immature, green or white, tips or points. Flesh pink or light red, firm and of good flavor.

It is claimed to be an improved Sharpless with more vigor of plant. Plants here grew rather slender and bore a short crop as a result of the cold.

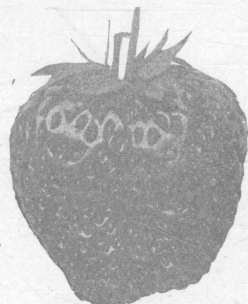


Fig. 8—Crozier.

**Dixie Belle** (Allen, 1906)—

Imperfect. Medium to small in size; short conical with blunt apex; color light crimson. Flesh pink, firm and of fairly good flavor.

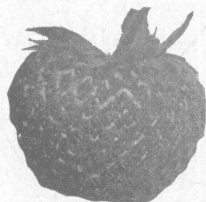


Fig. 9—Dixie Belle.

Plants vigorous and light green in color. Produced lightly and the fruit ran very small at the last of the season.



**Elma** (Crawford, 1906)—Medium to large, short conical, sometimes slightly compressed or oblate; light crimson in color. Flesh light pink in color, quite firm and of good flavor.

Plants are clean, healthy, vigorous growers and moderately productive of very attractive berries. This is the latest berry in our entire collection and may prove to have some value where it succeeds well. Compared with Fremont Williams the Elma is not so large and showy, nor quite so firm in flesh; compared with Stevens Late Champion it is not so prolific; but it is a little later in season than either.

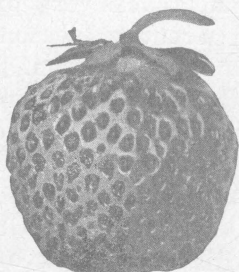


Fig. 10—Elma

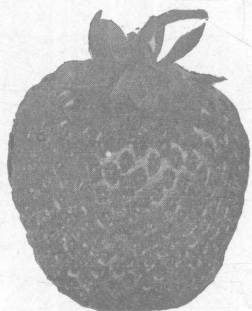


Fig. 11—Florello.

**Florello** (Slaymaker, 1906)—Perfect. Large, conical, often flattened or wedge-shape; color light, attractive crimson. Flesh pink, texture quite firm, quality good.

Plants are strong, making good rows. Produced a number of beautiful berries throughout the season, though the crop as a whole was a short one in total yield.

**Gem O. K** (Graham, 1906)—Perfect. Large, long conical, pointed, unusually regular in form, color crimson mottled dark and light, glossy and attractive when fully mature. Shows many white though not hard tips and undersides where partially shaded or before thoroughly ripe. Flesh white or tinted with pink, moderately firm, sweet and of good flavor.

Plants are rugged and healthy and very prolific. Suffered but little from the cold. Promising.

**General Joe Wheeler** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Medium to small, long conical, some specimens

pointed, others with blunt apex; dark crimson in color. Flesh red, moderately firm, somewhat acid, but fairly good in flavor.

Plants healthy, quite prolific, ripening their fruit early. Berries ran quite small at the close of the season.

**Hummer** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Large, conical, often flattened or wedge-shape; color dark crimson, commonly showing white tips or undersides. Flesh pink, rather fine and firm in texture, quality good.

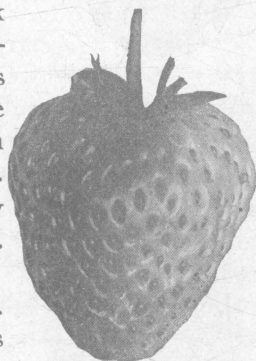


Fig. 12—Gem O. K.

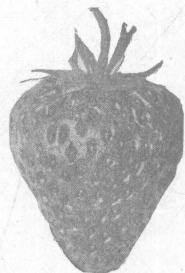


Fig. 13—General Joe Wheeler.



Made strong, healthy plants, but suffered much from cold. Almost a failure in crop production this year.

**Marsden Perry** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Produced a small yield of medium size, conical, dark crimson berries. Was badly injured in buds and blossoms, by the frost.



Fig. 14—Marsden Perry

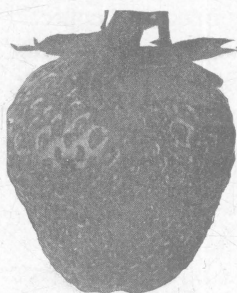


Fig. 15—Martin's New Queen.

**Martin's New Queen** (Martin, 1906)—Imperfect. Medium to large, long conical, wedge-shape or flattened, some specimens quite elongated; color bright crimson. Flesh red, moderately firm and good in quality,

Plants are strong and free from disease. Bore a fair crop of very nice berries. Was not as prolific as might be desired

**New Globe** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Was an almost total failure. Made a poor stand of plants. Blossoms suffered much from frost.

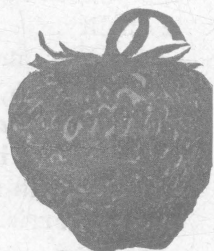


Fig. 16—New Globe.

**Oak's Early** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. As grown at the Station this sort seems of the same general type as Gen. Joe Wheeler, described above. While there may exist some slight differences in immaterial points, one description will answer for both. Both are healthy growers, making plenty of medium sized plants, and are among the first early sorts which, with but a single exception, the Virginia, suffered much from the frosts.



Fig. 17—Pride of Cumberland.

**Pride of Cumberland** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Berries medium to large, conical, bright crimson in color. Flesh red or pink, of firm texture and good flavor.

Of some promise, but less desirable than many others here.

**Pride of the Valley** (Crawford, 1906)—A total failure.

**Reba** (Crawford, 1906)—Imperfect. Medium to large, conical; color light crimson.

Flesh pink, firm and of good flavor.

Plants healthy and vigorous. Buds and flowers badly injured by the cold. Bore but a small crop.



Fig. 18—Reba.

**Reliance** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. A total failure. Plants showed a serious weakness and failed to make a fruiting row.

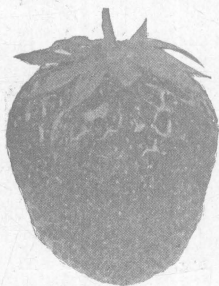


Fig. 19—Somerset Maid. Was a disappointment.

**Somerset Maid** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Medium in size, dark crimson, red fleshed, firm, rather acid until fully ripe. Of no decided merit here.

**Springdale** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Medium to small; form variable, short or broadly conical, sometimes oblate, slightly necked and usually somewhat furrowed; color crimson. Flesh pink, firm and of fair quality. Made many plants and was profuse in flowers, but bore a short crop.

**Virginia** (Allen, 1906)—Imperfect. First berries are medium or above in size, globular, unusually smooth and uniform; color bright crimson. Flesh pink or red, moderately firm and of acceptable quality.

Virginia makes plenty of strong, healthy plants with rich, dark-green foliage. This is the earliest imperfect blossomed variety the writer ever tested. It is astonishingly prolific. At the first two pickings the ground was almost covered with the unusually round, bright, attractive berries. Made two heavy pickings of salable berries, then dropped to a size too small for market. A very promising first early sort.



Fig. 20—Virginia.

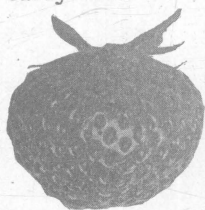


Fig. 21—Wild Wonder.

**Wild Wonder** (Allen, 1906)—Perfect. Small, conical, globular or oblate; bright crimson, red fleshed, moderately firm, quality good. Makes a perfect mat of small, slender plants. Prolific. Of no great value here.

**World's Champion** (Crawford, 1906)—Perfect. Made many plants, but individual plants lacked vigor. Produced but little fruit and that of inferior size and quality.



Fig. 22—World's Champion.

#### BRIEF MENTION OF THE MORE PROMISING VARIETIES TESTED IN 1904, 1905 OR 1906.

DESCRIBED IN BULLETINS 154, 166 OR 178.

**Fairfield**, though suffering much injury from the frosts, produced more fruit than other of the first early varieties except Virginia which, however, I am not ready to say is a better variety than Fairfield.

**Fremont Williams**, though not so prolific as Stevens' Late Champion, is probably the largest and handsomest berry in the collection. It is very desirable for the fancy market. One of the most excellent late sorts.

**Gill**, last season the finest early berry at the Station, persisted in opening its blossoms so very early, and during the period of severe frosts, that it was an entire failure from this cause. But I have by no means lost faith in its ability to produce quarts and dollars in a normal season.

**Great Scott** was again among the heavy producers, although the soil upon which it was grown this season was inferior to that upon which it stood last year. Its color is just a little "off", being rather coppery or "unfinished" in appearance. A very large berry.

**Highland Seedling**, during the four years it has been upon the Station grounds has not failed to give very prolific crops. It seems strong and persistent in all its admirable points. Not so firm as might be desired for a shipping berry, but all right for a nearby market. A quart maker, of bright, handsome berries of very acceptable quality.

**King Edward**, though suffering severely from frosts, gave a fair crop of very nice berries. Quite promising.

**LaBelle**, on much thinner soil than last year, made a broad row of plants which bore a heavy crop of berries. Its imperfect flowers opening only after the cold weather of May was over. LaBelle deserves to be classed with the late varieties. It ripened its fruit this season along with such varieties as "Latest."

**Latest** maintains its enviable record. Needs moist, fertile soil to enable it to make a sufficient number of plants. Excellent for hill culture.

**Mrs. Miller**, it is thought, will soon become a standard sort. It produces a heavy crop of medium to large berries of good color, and is sufficiently firm to carry well.

**No. 324** is one of the handsomest berries in the collection. It is of the Senator Dunlap type, though larger, darker and firmer. Has not yielded so freely as Dunlap, but is sufficiently prolific to give reasonable returns.

**No. 325**. Another of the "Dunlap type" that is a beauty. It is not so prolific as might be desired, yielding less than 324. Both 324 and 325 come to us from the originator of Sen. Dunlap, Mr. Reasoner, of Illinois.

**No. 611** produced the largest fruit, with the exception of the Fremont Williams, of any variety in our collection, notwithstanding the thin soil upon which it was grown. Promising.

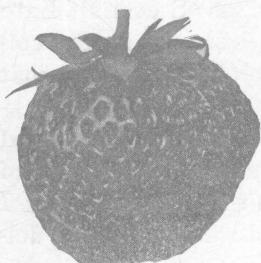


Fig. 23—Peck's No. 99.

**Peck's No. 99** (now named **Helen Gould**) maintained its good report of last year. A beautiful, richly colored berry of high quality.

**Stevens Late Champion** bore a very heavy crop of large, bright, firm berries. One of the finest and most prolific among our late sorts.

**Wyoga** maintained its record for 1906 as an astonishingly heavy yielder. The berries are long, slender, pointed, of medium size, firm and of fair quality. While it begins to ripen its first fruits with the midseason varieties, it closes the season with the heaviest pickings of any very late kind in our collection.

Varieties of such prolificacy as **Wyoga** or **LaBelle** should have moist soil containing abundant plant food to enable them to perfect their burdens of fruit. This we have not been able to provide for them at the Station, as for the past two seasons our variety tests have necessarily been conducted on rather thin, compact silt or fine sand loam.

#### SUMMARY.

Varieties of greatest promise which were tested for the first time during the season of 1907: **Buster**, **Chesapeake**, **Elma**, **Florella**, **Gem O. K.** and **Virginia**.

Varieties of greatest promise which were tested for the first in 1906, and which, in 1907, maintained their good report: **Great Scott**, **King Edward**, **LaBelle**, **Mrs. Miller**, **No. 324**, **No. 611**, **Peck's No. 99** (**Helen Gould**), **Stevens' Late Champion**, **Wonder** and **Wyoga**.

Best new first or extra early varieties tested during the past four seasons—1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907: **Fairfield**, **Gill** and **Virginia**.

Best new midseason varieties tested during the past four years: **Great Scott**, **Highland Seedling**, **Mrs. Miller**, **No. 324** and **Wonder**.

Best new late varieties tested during the past four years: **Elma**, **Fremont Williams**, **LaBelle**, **Latest**, **Stevens' Late Champion** and **Wyoga**.

Varieties of unusually good dessert quality tested during the past four years: "**B. W. No. 6**," **Carlisle Seedling**, **Latest**, **Peck's No. 99** (**Helen Gould**) and **Pennell**.

Varieties which have maintained their places as standards for the past four years or longer, at the Station and elsewhere: **Aroma**, **Bubach**, **Haverland**, **Parson's Beauty**, **Sample**, **Senator Dunlap** and **Warfield**.